

REMARKS

Claims 1- 14 are pending. No Claims have been amended and no new matter has been added.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 3 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Mehrad et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,765,257 B1 (hereinafter, Mehrad). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1 and 3 - 7 is neither shown nor suggested by Mehrad.

Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to an integrated circuit device comprising:

... a source contact disposed outside of said common source line and coupled with said source.

Claims 3 - 7 depend from independent Claim 1 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that Mehrad does not anticipate or render obvious, "a source contact disposed outside of said common source line and coupled with said source," as is recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is not anticipated. Mehrad

discloses an implanted vertical source line under straight stack for flash erasable programmable read only memory (FLASH EPROM). More specifically, Mehrad discloses a horizontal source line 17, a source contact 32, and a vertical source line 17a. However, Mehrad does not teach or suggest, either expressly or inherently, “a source contact disposed outside of said common source line and coupled with said source,” as is recited in Claim 1. In fact, Mehrad teaches away from this claim by teaching that the source contacts 32, are affixed directly to the vertical source line 17a, and are not disposed outside of a common source line and coupled to it, as is set forth in Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Mehrad fails to anticipate or render obvious the Applicants’ invention as is set forth in Claim 1, and as such, Claim 1 traverses the Examiner’s basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and is in condition for allowance. Accordingly the Applicants also respectfully submit that Mehrad does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claims 3 – 7 dependent on Claim 1, and that these Claims overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) through dependency on an allowable base claim.

Claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Karp et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,266,269 B1 (hereinafter, Karp). The applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 8 and 14 is neither shown nor suggested by Karp.

Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 8, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to an integrated circuit device:

... wherein a first region under a gate comprises overlapping lateral diffusions of source and drain implantation regions.

Claim 14 depends from independent Claim 8 and recites a further limitation of the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that Karp does not anticipate or render obvious an integrated circuit device, "wherein a first region under a gate comprises overlapping lateral diffusions of source and drain implantation regions," as is recited in Claim 8. Therefore, Claim 8 is not anticipated. Karp discloses a non-volatile memory element that is manufactured with a separation between the source and drain implantation regions. See e.g., col. 6, line 56 – 63. However, Karp does not teach or suggest, either expressly or inherently, an integrated circuit device, "wherein a first region under a gate comprises overlapping lateral diffusions of source and drain implantation regions," as recited in Claim 8. In fact, Karp teaches away from this claim by teaching manufacture of an integrated circuit device comprising non-overlapping lateral diffusions of source and drain implantation regions, wherein overlapping may or may not be selectively caused later by programming the device. See e.g., col. 6, lines 56 – 63.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Karp fails to anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention as is set forth in Claim 8, and as such, Claim 8 traverses the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and is in condition for allowance. Accordingly the Applicants also respectfully submit that Karp does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claim 14 dependent on Claim 8, and that this Claim overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) through dependency on an allowable base claim.

§103 Rejections

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mehrad in view of Hazani U.S. Patent No. 5,047,814 (hereinafter Hazani). Hazani shows an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM) cell including isolated control diffusion. However, Hazani does not cure the deficiencies of Mehrad discussed above. In fact, nowhere in the Hazani reference is an integrated circuit device disclosed or suggested that includes, "a source contact disposed outside of said common source line and coupled with said source," as is recited in Claim 1 (from which Claims 2 depends). Consequently, the embodiment of the Applicants' invention set forth in Claim 2 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Mehrad and Hazani, either alone or in combination.

Claims 9 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karp in view of Mehrad. Mehrad discloses an implanted vertical source line

under straight stack for flash erasable programmable read only memory (FLASH EPROM). However, Mehrad does not cure the deficiencies of Karp discussed above. In fact, nowhere in the Mehrad reference is an integrated circuit device, "wherein a first region under a gate comprises overlapping lateral diffusions of source and drain implantation regions," as is recited in Claim 8 (from which Claims 9 - 13 depend) shown or suggested. Consequently, the embodiments of the Applicants' invention set forth in Claims 9 - 13 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Mehrad and Hazani, either alone or in combination.

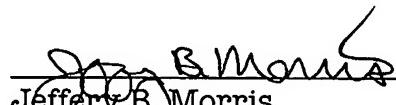
SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffery B. Morris at (408) 938-9060.

Respectfully submitted,
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